



LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT USE OF FORCE-TACTICS DIRECTIVE

Directive No. 14

December 2012

STRIKES AND KICKS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Directive is to provide officers with guidelines for using strikes and kicks.

PROTOCOL

Strikes and/or kicks can be used when such force is objectively reasonable to accomplish the following:

- Overcome active resistance to arrest
- Create distance from a suspect
- Protect self or others from injury
- Stop or stun a suspect
- Distract a suspect

Reporting

When a strike or kick is used and there is contact with an individual it is a reportable use of force.

Medical Treatment

Medical treatment is required when the individual is injured or has a complained of injury. If a medical emergency exists, officers shall request a rescue ambulance to respond to the location.

PROCEDURES

When using strikes and/or kicks, officers should target the following areas:

- Shoulders
- Chest
- Arms
- Abdomen
- Sides
- Legs
- Buttocks

Based on the fluid and often violent nature of a use of force situation, the application of a particular technique may vary. Intentional strikes or kicks to any part of the body other than the target areas identified above may be objectively reasonable based on the facts and circumstances articulated by the involved officer. Intentional strikes to the head should be avoided in most circumstances.

Note: When a suspect in a prone position with their hands under their body fails to comply with an officer's commands and submit to handcuffing, officers should consider options such as lateral head displacement, baton-assisted joint locks or pressure-point techniques in order to take the suspect into custody. Palm heel strikes and closed fist strikes are discouraged absent compelling circumstances when a suspect is in a prone position.

DEFINITIONS

Strike: Any blow with the hand or elbow.

Note: Absent exigent or unusual circumstances which must be fully articulated by the involved officer, fist strikes should be used primarily on soft tissue areas to prevent injury to an officer's hands, and to minimize the risk of serious injury to the suspect.

Kick: Any blow with the foot, shin, or knee.

Important Reminder

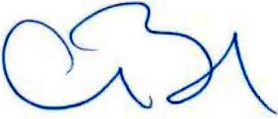
Deviation from these basic concepts sometimes occurs due to the fluid and rapidly evolving nature of law enforcement encounters and the environment in which they occur. Deviations may range from minor, typically procedural or technical, to substantial deviations from Department tactical training. Any deviations are to be explained by the involved officer(s), and justification for substantial deviation from Department tactical training shall be articulated and must meet the objectively reasonable standard of the Department's Use of Force policy.

CONCLUSION

When attempting to gain control of an individual, the likelihood of success is influenced by an officer's ability to properly apply the appropriate force option, including strikes and kicks. As in all use of force situations, only that force which is objectively reasonable may be used to gain control of the individual.

AMENDMENTS

This Directive cancels Training Bulletin Volume XVII, Issue 1, Use of Force - Kicks, March 1986.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Beck', with a stylized, looping design.

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

DISTRIBUTION "A"